



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# FACT SHEET

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## Umatilla Chemical Depot

### Suiting up for Safety

The Demilitarization Protective Ensemble (DPE) is a heat-sealed, one-time use suit weighing about 50 pounds with supporting equipment. These airtight suits provide the highest level of protection for workers accessing disposal plant areas where chemical weapons are disassembled and agent destroyed. Program wide, workers have successfully completed tens of thousands of entries wearing the DPE suit.

#### Communications

A radio transmitter provides contact with an emergency backup crew, control room and other support staff.

#### Life Support

Primary supply comes through hose connection to purified air; a self-contained breathing apparatus provides 8 to 10 minutes of escape air. Heart monitor around chest checks for signs of distress.

#### Second skin

Specially blended materials help seal out harmful chemicals.

#### Gloves

Three layers are used, with thick butyl-rubber gloves as the top layer.

#### Footwear

One-piece suit slips into butyl-rubber boots that are taped shut.



For more information,  
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